

March 12, 2013

To, Senator LeBeau, Representative Perone and members of the Commerce Committee

I am writing in favor of Senate Bill 1078, An Act Increasing the Gross Vehicle Weight of Vehicles Hauling Agricultural Commodities. I am the manager of Crop Production Services in Broad Brook, Connecticut. Crop Production Services is a supplier of crop inputs and services to farms across Connecticut and Southern New England. SB 1078 would have a positive effect on my business. I use 12,000 tons of fertilizer each year, 85% is brought in by the rail road. When I cannot bring in the product I need by rail, it is delivered by truck. The problem I have with trucks is the fact that they are limited to 80,000 pound GVW in Connecticut when they can legally have a 100,000 pound GVW in the states that border Connecticut. During the busy spring planting season when trucks can be in short supply I have a difficult time getting loads brought into me because they prefer to take loads going to states that allow the higher GVW. With the high cost of fuel they make more money taking those loads. Many times I have to pay a higher rate to get my loads delivered. This leads to higher costs of product to me which I have to pass on to my customers. Allowing the 100,000 GVW trucks hauling agricultural commodities in Connecticut will help farms in the state to be more competitive with farms in our neighboring states. Agriculture is an important industry in Connecticut supporting 27,000 jobs in the state.

Thank You for your consideration,
Bill Syme, Manager
Crop Production Services